

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING  
HELD SUNDAY 19 April 2015 3 pm**

**ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF THE CHURCH OF ST PETER & PAUL  
DRY DRAYTON**

**Opening Prayers: Michael Langford led the parishioners in prayer.**

**I. THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

1. To appoint a clerk to the meeting: Alison Myers proposed Diane Harris to be the clerk, seconded by Julia Smith. Approved.
2. To receive the minutes of the Annual meeting held on 30 March 2014: Proposed by Anne Matthews & seconded by Julia Smith. Approved.
3. To elect two churchwardens to serve for the year 2015-2016:
  - Huguette Jenkinson was formally thanked for her six years service as churchwarden.
  - Carole Lunn agreed to stand again: Martin Tester also agreed to stand. No objections were raised, and the wardens were unanimously approved.
  - Alison Myers proposed that churchwardens stand for a three-year period, which is considered best practice in the Anglican church. This does not mean that they cannot stand for more than 3 years, just that it gives them a chance to review whether they want to continue for more than one three-year period. In some churches churchwardens can stand for two full terms but then must take at least a one-year break before standing again, but this is often waived in small congregations. It is helpful to stagger the terms, so there is always someone experienced in the role. Alison Myers made the following proposal: That Dry Drayton church elect churchwardens for a three-year term, with the possibility of renewal for one more term in normal circumstances. Martin Tester's term to be three years from the date of the annual meeting of parishioners; Carole Lunn's term to run for one more year and to be reviewed next year. Seconded by Lois Clark. Unanimously adopted.

**II. THE ANNUAL PAROCIAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. Present: Alison Myers (team vicar), Carole Lunn (churchwarden), Huguette Jenkinson (churchwarden), Martin Tester, Rob Lunn (treasurer), Diane Harris (secretary), John Kingsmill, Anne Matthews, Pauline Bunyan, Ernest Bunyan, Amanda Norman, Michael Langford, Rosemary Gardiner, David Gardiner, Julia Smith, Christine Woods, Lois Clark, Andrew Clark.  
Apologies: Angela Patterson, Anne Kingsmill-Scholls, Sally Church, Ruth Atkins, Ken Atkins.  
*In these minutes "AM" shall refer to Alison Myers.*
2. Minutes of the annual meeting held on 30 March 2014: JS proposed that the minutes be accepted, seconded by PB. The minutes were amended to reflect that Rosemary Gardiner and David Gardiner had been present, and were unanimously approved.
3. Matters Arising:
  - Item 4 (last bullet point): The road has been patched in front of the church and remains on the Parish Council list for further work.

- Item 4 (second bullet point): The church band will resume now that the development of the church interior is mainly complete; it is hoped to have the band once a month.
4. Notice of items to be raised under AOB:
- JS wished to record a thank you to the flower arrangers as the church has been beautifully adorned with flowers, especially at festivals.
  - RG wished to raise an item on Bible readings.
  - ML wished to give further details about the Medecins Sans Frontieres auction.
5. A. Review of the annual report for 2014:

AM commented that the different items of the report were submitted by various members of the parish, reflecting the fact that a large and varied group of people contribute to the activities of the church. Members present were asked to each state one item from the 2014 activities for which to thank God. The following items were mentioned:

- Flowers & beauty of the church at festivals
- Rhyming nativity play
- Sunday Club (further consolidation)
- John Drake and his vision & legacy, generosity & friendship
- WWI exhibition
- The lessons & carols service at Christmas
- Continuation & successful completion of the latest stage of the development of the church and the opportunities it offers
- Young families coming into the church
- New village school building
- Efforts of teenagers with the Sunday Club
- Seeing the children come to the church for school services (as a school governor)
- Coffee at the end of services & the social opportunities it raises
- Special feeling of worship in the chancel (intimate space)
- Effective management team & good team work

And in 2015:

- The Easter experience
- Attendance numbers are positive

B. The examined accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31.12.2014:

Treasurer RL thanked everyone who contributed to the Regular Giving Plan, which is essential to underpinning the finances of the church. He made the following comments:

- The negative balance in the General Fund was reduced from £900 in 2013 to £385 in 2014, due to a reduction in the end of year grants.
- A questionnaire has been distributed to the congregation about where they wish end of year grants to go. The results will be collated and given to RL.
- DG expressed dissatisfaction that the PCC had decided to reduce the amount donated for end of year charities and requested that the minutes be regularly posted so that non-PCC members could be made aware when decisions like this are made. A discussion regarding charitable giving ensued. Points included the following:
  - The PCC has budgeted to give 5 percent in charitable grants at the end of 2015.
  - The PCC makes other charitable contributions which are not included in this sum, such as youth work, retiring collections, and some other collections, such as the one collected for Embrace. This amounts to 8% or more of the annual budget (but there is also an issue of whether youth work should be considered a charity or integral part of the church).

- It was thought the PCC should keep more comprehensive records of all its charitable collections, not all of which necessarily go through church accounts. RL agreed to keep a record of such donations as long as he is informed of them.

#### **Actions:**

- **DH to circulate PCC minutes by email to the congregation list.**
  - **RL to begin recording all charitable donations by Church.**
- Other general fund items:
- The PCC expressed gratitude to the Pecks for their regular grant to help with churchyard maintenance (although this amount was exceeded this year due to extra work being required).
  - The Parish Council has given a grant of £500 towards the clock, which can be serviced now that the development work inside the church has been completed.
  - The budget for 2015 will have a deficit of around £1000 which will come out of reserves, unless income is increased.
  - MT was thanked for administering the RGP (regular giving plan) accounts.
  - The church has been able to reclaim £177 under the new gift aid 'reclaiming for small amounts of cash' scheme.
  - The 2014 accounts were approved and signed off by Mark Taylor, who donated his time and did a very thorough job. The meeting recorded a vote of thanks for his help and generosity.
  - The accounts have been submitted to the Diocese as required.
  - RL reiterated that he is happy to accept email questions about the accounts.
  - These accounts will be kept with the minutes in the APCM minute book.
6. Report on the electoral roll : MT reported the electoral roll consisted of 38 members at the end of 2014: one less than in 2013.
  7. Minister's report: AM did not read a formal report, but instead looked ahead to the following plans for 2015:
    - Nave altar: Now that so much has gone into the redevelopment of the church, it is important to think about how to use the church as a place of sanctuary, prayer, peace, and to use it as our mission & witness, and as a vital part of the community. Thinking about how the space is used for worship will include experimenting with a nave altar, which so far has had positive & negative comments. It was suggested that a meeting could be held after the morning service on the second Sunday in June to discuss reactions to the nave altar and other ways to use the space to enhance worship and community life. The nave altar will be used at all communion services until then (about 3 or 4 more) so there should be sufficient opportunity to experience it.
    - Noticeboards: The PCC will be obtaining both a new external noticeboard, and free-standing internal noticeboards – including one dedicated to the Sunday Club.
    - Church community: 4 dimensions: (i) In (our relationships & what we do to enhance them, involve people in different roles, who we are as a community & how we build that sense of community); (ii) Up (our relationship with God & how/whether we are growing in that relationship); (iii) Out (how we connect to the school, village, etc in mission – how we reach out & serve, especially as a relatively small church community); (iv) Of or Across (how we connect with other church communities, like the Methodist Church, for example).
    - AM emphasised that anybody at any time can make suggestions for the PCC to include on its agendas for the year, either through DH, a churchwarden or AM. It was suggested that the PCC get the clock working as a top priority.

**Action: DH put Church Clock on next PCC agenda.**

8. Report by PCC Development Subcommittee on Church Restoration:

DG reported that we are very near the end of the work that began in 2009. Careful planning regarding cash flow is required; the legacy funds are coming to an end. The following items are still to be done:

- Rainwater goods still to be replaced (gutters and drainage).
- New shed to be constructed (faculty has been applied for).
- It is hoped to install built-in cupboards near the front entrance, and more storage by the electric blower for organ (which would also make that area more attractive).
- A new lighting plan will be implemented.

The PCC thanked David Gardiner and the subcommittee for all the work, planning and paperwork, and expressed its admiration for the beauty & utility of the new kitchen & vestry, floor & other parts of the development.

9. Elections and appointments

a. To elect parochial representatives to the PCC:

The terms of DH and PS had come to an end. DH agreed to stand again and was unanimously elected. PS was not available to confirm whether he was willing to re-stand, so no vote was taken. If he is willing to stay on the committee he can be co-opted at the next meeting. HJ stood down as churchwarden, but stood for the PCC and was unanimously elected.

b. To appoint sidespeople: CL will circulate an email confirming names.

c. To appoint an independent examiner to the Council: RL will thank Mark Taylor & ask him to continue in this role. Unanimously approved.

10. Any other business:

A. Bible week: RG suggested a Bible reading week with various activities – possibly in Autumn or near Bible Sunday, sometime toward the end of the year. This would involve a “Bible experience” as opposed to an exhibition (something people can be more engaged in) similar to the “Easter experience”. Could also invite the school to come in and ‘experience’ the different bits (although wouldn’t be just for children). It was also mentioned that the Diocese provides excellent courses related to reading and understanding the Bible, such as the discipleship course CL is taking. This idea was well received.

**Action: RG to develop this idea further – including choosing a date.**

B. Medecin Sans Frontieres: ML reported that the charity auction for the benefit of Medecins Sans Fronteires will be 14 May 2015 at Cheffins. It was requested that parishioners donate items such as pottery, glass, silver, and other items to support this auction.

11. Closing prayers: AM led the group in prayers. Everybody mentioned items they would like to pray for, which included:

- Reaching men and boys
- Involving the whole of the worshipping community
- Helping the church to be relevant to the wider community
- Discipleship
- Continued and increasing involvement with the school
- Congregation continuing to grow: committed regular worshippers
- Deepening of sense of discipleship & God’s presence amongst us
- Sense of church as giving to the community, not taking.

*The meeting closed at 4 pm with coffee, tea and cake. PCC members set the date of their next meeting as Thursday 4 June at 8 pm in the Church.*